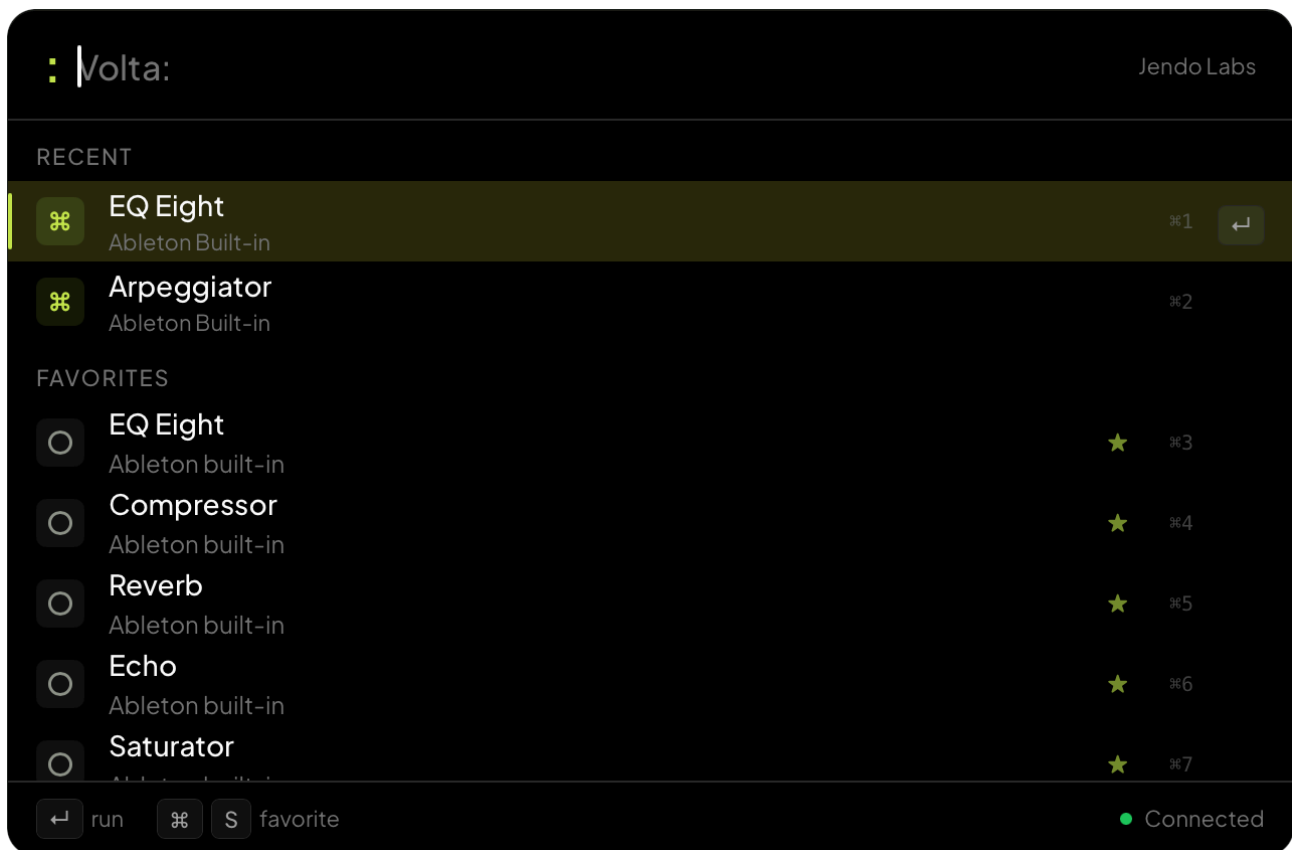


Volta - User Guide

A command palette for Ableton Live. Press `Cmd+Shift+K`, type a device or command, hit `Enter`.



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Part 1. Getting started

System requirements

	Minimum	Notes
macOS	12 Monterey or later	Universal binary. Runs natively on Apple Silicon and Intel.
Windows	10 or 11	
Ableton Live	11 or 12	Sample insert additionally requires Live 11.3.25+ or 12.0.5+. Search and preview work on any supported Live build.

Installation and setup

1. Install Volta

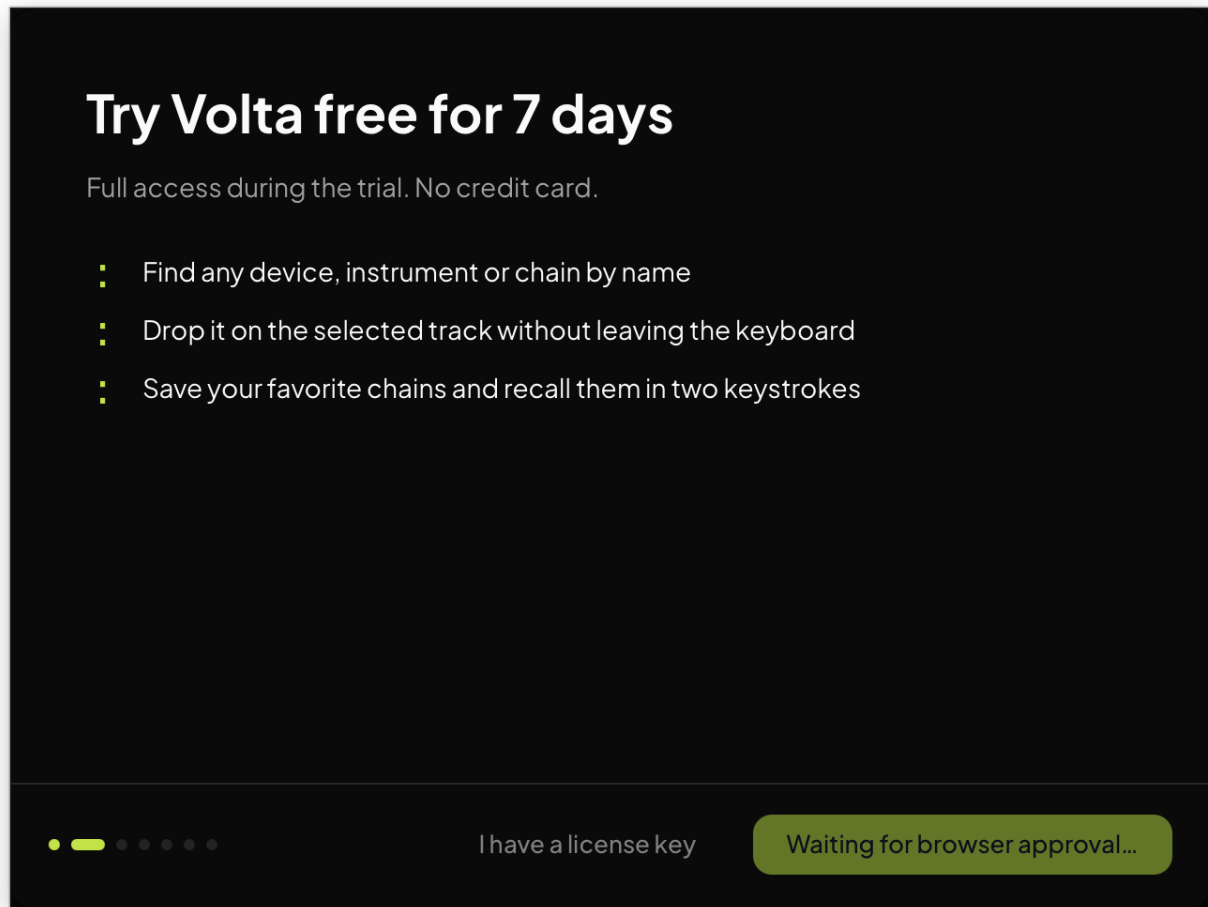
Download the latest release for your platform and open Volta.app (macOS) or Volta.exe (Windows). A setup wizard appears on first launch and walks you through the rest.

2. Follow the setup wizard

The wizard is seven steps.

1. **Welcome.** A short overview of what Volta does.
2. **License or trial.** Start your 7-day free trial or paste a license key. Volta opens a browser tab to authorize the install against your Jendo Labs account. Approve it there and the wizard advances automatically.
3. **Quit Ableton.** Volta installs a small integration into Live. Live needs to be closed for it to take effect.
4. **Install VoltaOSC.** Volta sets up the integration. No clicks needed.
5. **Enable VoltaOSC in Live.** Reopen Live and enable VoltaOSC under **Preferences** → **Link / Tempo / MIDI** (or **Tempo & MIDI** on Live 12.4 and later). The wizard waits for Live to connect.
6. **Connected.** Volta confirms the connection.

7. **Manual fallback.** Only shown if step 5 didn't connect automatically. The wizard walks you through enabling VoltaOSC by hand.



The screenshot shows a dark-themed window with the following content:

- Try Volta free for 7 days**
- Full access during the trial. No credit card.
- A list of three features:
 - Find any device, instrument or chain by name
 - Drop it on the selected track without leaving the keyboard
 - Save your favorite chains and recall them in two keystrokes
- A progress indicator at the bottom left with five dots, the first of which is highlighted in green.
- Two buttons at the bottom right: "I have a license key" and "Waiting for browser approval..." (the latter is highlighted in green).

After the wizard, Volta lives in your menu bar (macOS) or system tray (Windows). Click the icon for Settings, About, and Quit.

First launch

The first time Volta connects to Ableton Live, it scans your device library: built-in effects, instruments, MIDI effects, plug-ins, and User Library items. The scan takes 10 to 30 seconds depending on how many plug-ins you have installed.

The result is cached, so future launches are instant. Sample indexing is also supported, off by default.

Part 2. Using Volta

The command palette

The palette is Volta's only window during normal use. Everything starts here.

Opening and closing

Press **Cmd+Shift+K** (macOS) or **Ctrl+Shift+K** (Windows) while Ableton Live is the focused window.

The palette only opens when Ableton Live is focused, so Volta never steals the hotkey from other apps. To change it, open **Settings → General → Activation hotkey**.

Close the palette with **Esc** or by clicking outside it.

Loading a device

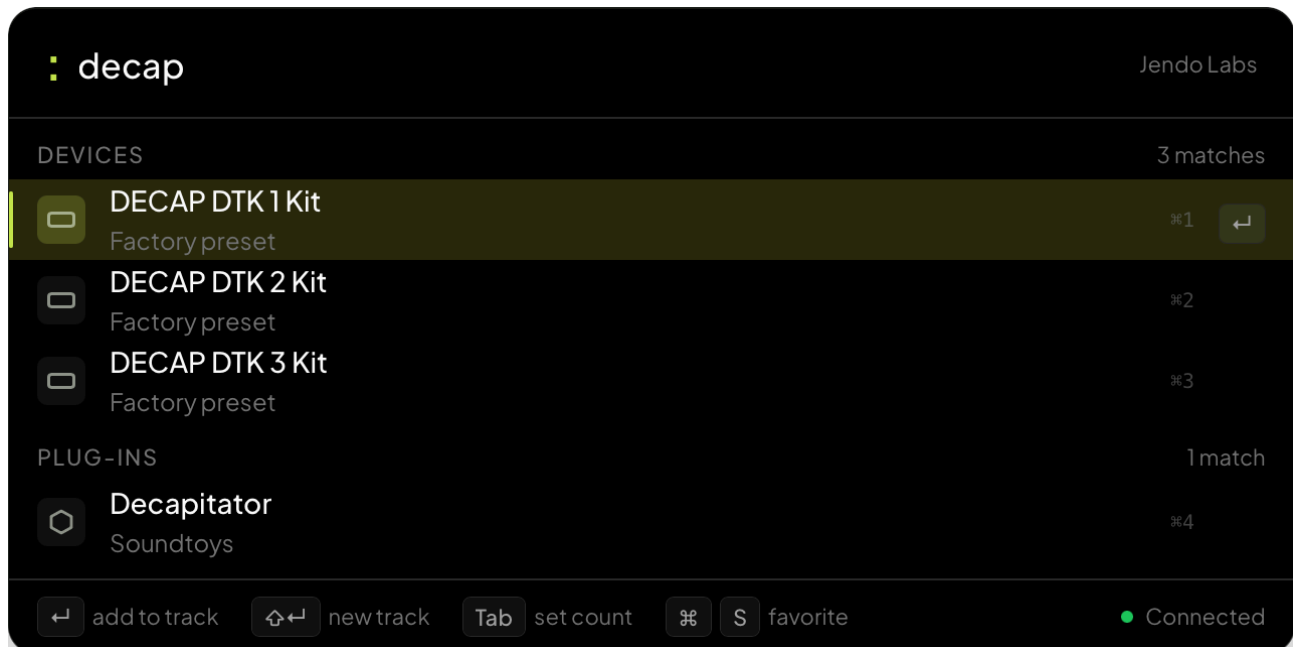
Type any part of a device name. Results group into Favorites, Recent, Devices, Plug-ins, Samples, and Commands. Press **Enter** on the highlighted row.

Action	Shortcut
Load onto the selected track	Enter
Load onto a new track	Shift+Enter
Add a parameter before loading	Tab
Save as favorite	Cmd+S / Ctrl+S
Preview a sample, preset, or drum kit	Ctrl+Space
Fire row 1 through 9 directly	Cmd+1 – Cmd+9 / Ctrl+1 – Ctrl+9
Close	Esc

Shift+Enter on a device routes to the right track type. Instruments and User Library items create a new MIDI track. Audio effects create a new audio track. MIDI effects create a new MIDI track.

Quick-fire shortcuts (Cmd/Ctrl+1 through Cmd/Ctrl+9)

The first nine visible rows show small position badges: ⌘1 , ⌘2 , up to ⌘9 . Pressing the modifier with that number fires the corresponding row, the same as highlighting it and pressing Enter. This works in any palette state: empty (showing favorites), mid-search, or inside a chained sequence.



Tab: adding a parameter

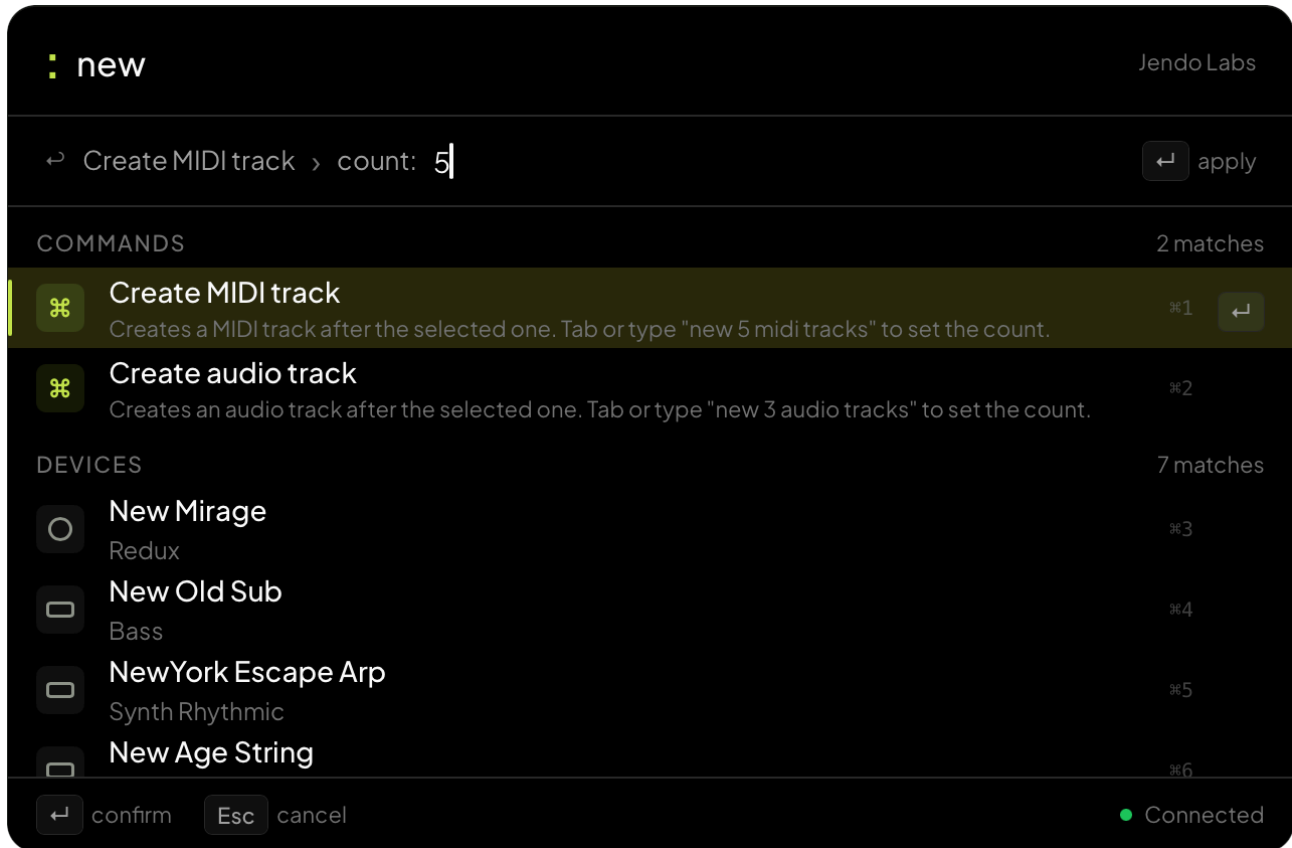
Tab on the highlighted row opens a contextual parameter field inline, without leaving the palette.

- **Instrument, plug-in, or User Library row.** Tab opens a track-count field. Enter 3 and Volta creates three new tracks and loads that instrument on each.
- **Audio or MIDI effect row.** Tab opens a count field. Enter 3 and Volta loads the effect three times onto the selected track.
- **Command row.** Tab opens the argument field, pre-filled with your default from Settings.
- **Name-targeted commands** (mute , solo , select , rename). Tab opens a live track-name autocomplete.

Enter confirms, Esc cancels.

Commands

Commands are verbs you type directly. The palette surfaces matches as you type. Press `Enter` to fire, or `Tab` to fill in a parameter.



Volta uses Live's vocabulary for the canonical verbs (`tempo` for BPM, `delete` for device removal), but the older words still work as aliases (`bpm` , `clear`). Use whichever you reach for first.

Tempo

Input	Effect
<code>tempo 128</code>	Set song tempo to 128 BPM.
<code>tempo 95.5</code>	Fractional BPMs work too.
<code>tempo</code>	Open the saved-tempo presets picker. Manage the list in Settings → Defaults .
<code>bpm 128</code>	Same as <code>tempo 128</code> . <code>bpm</code> is an alias.

Mute and solo

Input	Effect
mute	Toggle mute on the selected track.
mute bass	Fuzzy-find a track called "bass" and toggle its mute.
solo drums	Same pattern, for solo.
unmute all	Clear mute from every track.
unsolo all	Clear solo from every track.

Track names are fuzzy-matched and case-insensitive. If several tracks match, each appears as its own row so you can pick the right one. Group tracks match by name too.

Arm

Input	Effect
arm	Toggle record-arm on the selected MIDI track.
arm on / arm off	Force the state regardless of current arm.
disarm	Alias for arm off .

Select and rename

Input	Effect
select bass	Jump the selection to the "bass" track.
go synth	Alias for select .
rename kick drum	Rename the selected track.
rename clips	Rename every clip on the selected track to match the track name.

Tracks

Input	Effect
new midi track	Create one MIDI track after the selection.
new 4 audio tracks	Create N tracks (supports 1 to 99).
dup track	Duplicate the selected track once.
dup track 3	Duplicate three times.

Clips and notes (MIDI only)

Input	Effect
clip	Create a blank MIDI clip at your default bar length.
clip 8 bars	Create a blank 8-bar MIDI clip.
dup	Duplicate selected notes (or all notes if none selected). Count comes from Settings → Defaults.
dup 4	Duplicate four times.
transpose up / shift notes up	Shift selected notes up one octave.
transpose down / shift notes down	Shift down one octave.
transpose 5 / transpose -3	Shift by an exact number of semitones.

dup needs a focused MIDI clip on the selected track. clip creates a new one and works from any starting state.

Cleanup

Input	Effect
clear effects	Remove every audio and MIDI effect from the selected track (keeps the instrument).
clear instrument	Remove only the instrument.
clear track	Remove every device.

All three are destructive. Cmd+Z in Ableton undoes them.

Samples

Volta indexes your sample library: User Library, every folder under Places in Ableton's browser sidebar (including external drives), and Factory Packs. Matches appear in a dedicated Samples section below Devices and Plug-ins.

Searching

Type any part of a filename. Tokens match against the filename, the parent folder, and the extension. `_`, `-`, and `.` count as separators, not characters to match literally.

Input	Matches
<code>kick</code>	Every file with <code>kick</code> in the path.
<code>kick 808</code>	Files whose name or parent folder contains both tokens.
<code>kick_808</code>	Same as above. Separators are interchangeable.

The screenshot shows a search interface with the query 'kshmr drum loop hip' in the top bar. The search results are displayed in a list under the heading 'SAMPLES'. The first result is highlighted in green. The interface includes a search bar, a list of results, and a bottom navigation bar with icons for 'insert sample', 'preview', and 'favorite', along with a 'Connected' status indicator.

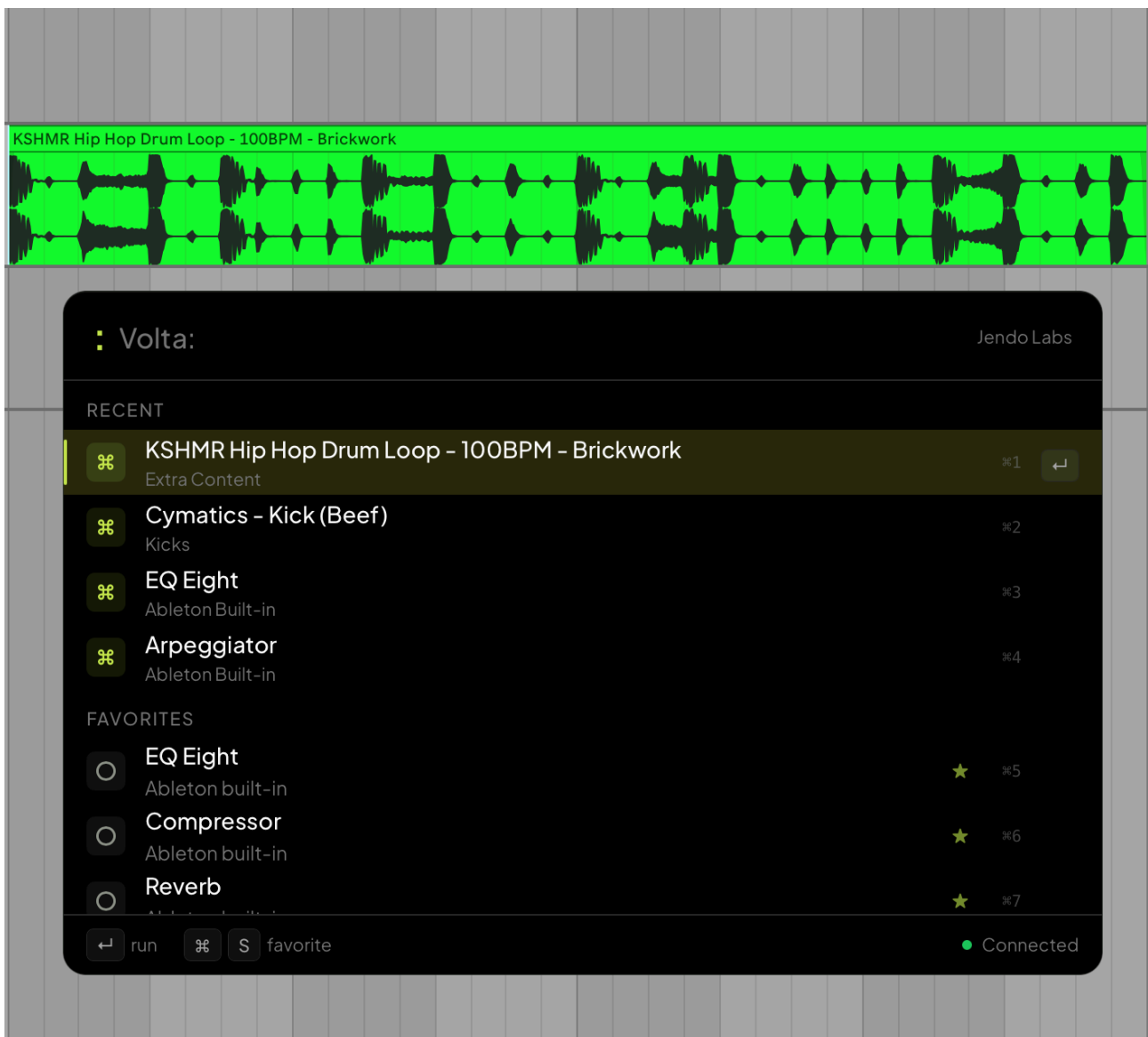
SAMPLES		8 shown - keep typing to narrow
	KSHMR Hip Hop Drum Loop - 100BPM - Brickwork.wav Extra Content	#1
	KSHMR Hip Hop Drum Loop - Full - 100BPM - Bouncin.wav Hip Hop Drum Loops	#2
	KSHMR Hip Hop Drum Loop - Full - 100BPM - Brickwork.wav Hip Hop Drum Loops	#3
	KSHMR Hip Hop Drum Loop - Full - 100BPM - Heater.wav Hip Hop Drum Loops	#4
	KSHMR Hip Hop Drum Loop - Full - 101BPM - Stampede.wav Hip Hop Drum Loops	#5
	KSHMR Hip Hop Drum Loop - Full - 135BPM - Body.wav Hip Hop Drum Loops	#6
	KSHMR Hip Hop Drum Loop - Full - 88BPM - Diamonds.wav Hip Hop Drum Loops	#7
	KSHMR Hip Hop Drum Loop - Full - 90BPM - Hunna.wav Hip Hop Drum Loops	#8

← insert sample preview S favorite ● Connected

Sample rows are styled subtly so device matches stay visually dominant. The Samples section caps at 8 rows, so device and plug-in results never get pushed off-screen.

Inserting a sample

Press **Enter** on a highlighted sample row.



- **Session view.** The sample drops into the highlighted clip slot on the selected audio track, or the next empty slot below if that one is taken.
- **Arrangement view.** The sample lands on the selected track at the playback start marker.

Previewing

Press **Ctrl+Space** on a highlighted row to audition it through Live's preview channel, the same routing as clicking the play triangle in Live's browser.

Preview works on samples, instrument presets, and drum kits.

- Press it again to stop.
- Pressing it on a different row stops the previous one and plays the new one.
- Moving the highlight to another row, or closing the palette, stops playback.

Favoriting and re-inserting

- **Cmd+S** on a sample row pins it as a favorite. Favorites appear at the top of the empty-query palette. You can also bind a favorite to a global hotkey (see [Hotkeys](#)).
- **Recent samples** show up in the Recent list at the top of the empty palette. **Ctrl+Space** previews, **Cmd+S** favorites, **Enter** re-inserts.

Refreshing the index

The Samples header shows live counts while indexing is running ("Indexing samples · 47,123..."), and disappears when the scan settles.

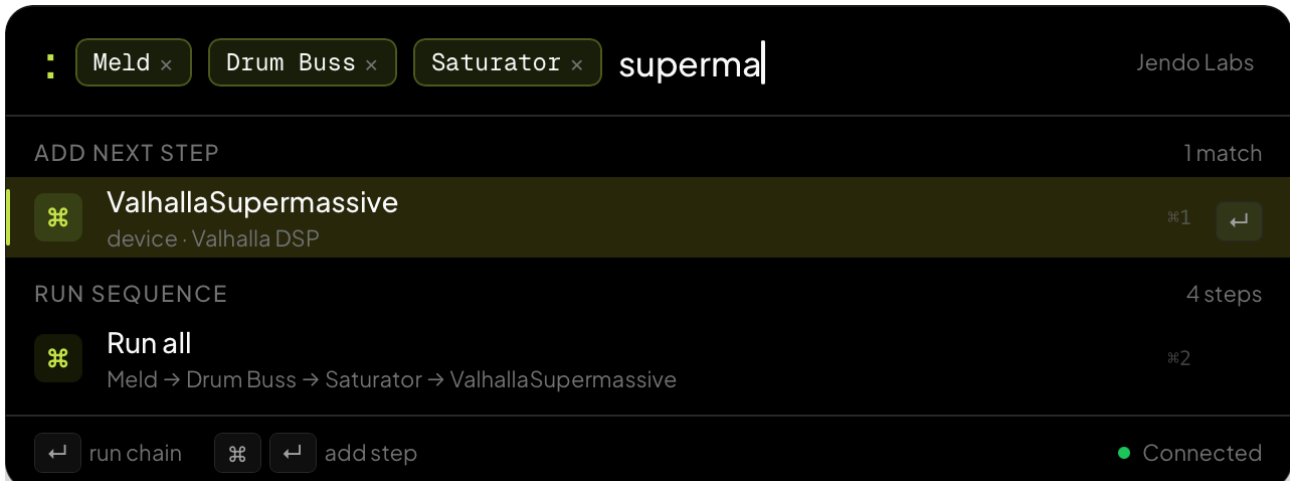
After installing a new sample pack, dragging a folder into Live's Places sidebar, or moving samples on disk, open **Settings → Sample search**.

- **Refresh library** picks up new and changed folders. Fast.
- **Rebuild from scratch** clears the index and scans everything again. Slower on large libraries.

Volta does not watch your disk for live updates. The index reflects what's available in your Ableton Live library.

Inline sequences

Chain multiple steps in one palette entry by separating them with a semicolon (;) or by pressing **Cmd+Enter** / **Ctrl+Enter** between steps. Each chunk renders as its own pill in the input.



```
new midi track; rename Drums; mute
```

Creates a MIDI track, renames it "Drums", and mutes it. One **Enter** runs the whole chain.

```
Reverb; Auto Filter
```

Loads Reverb, then Auto Filter, onto the selected track.

If any step fails, the chain stops and a toast names the failed step.

Inline sequences are one-shot. To save a sequence you'll run again, use a macro.

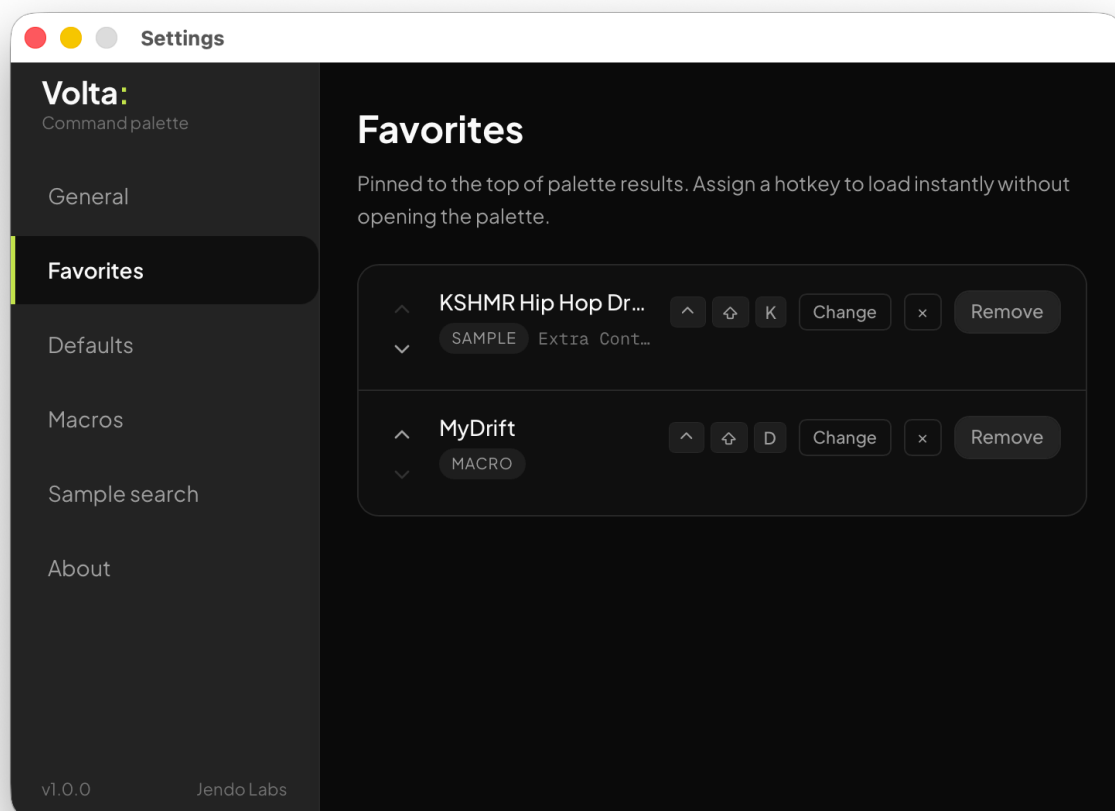
Part 3. Saving your workflow

Favorites

Press **Cmd+S** on any highlighted palette row to save it as a favorite. Devices, commands, BPM presets, samples, and macros all work.

Favorites pin to the top of every search and appear immediately when you open the palette with an empty query. Manage them in **Settings → Favorites**: reorder by drag, delete, or assign a hotkey.

You can also access the Settings window by pressing **Cmd+,** on mac or **Ctrl+,** on windows while the command palette is open.



Hotkeys

There are two kinds of hotkey.

Hotkey	Where to set it	What it does
Palette activation	Settings → General	Open the palette. Default <code>Cmd+Shift+K</code> / <code>Ctrl+Shift+K</code> .
Favorite hotkey	Settings → Favorites	Fire one of your favorite command/chain/sample directly while the command palette is closed. <code>Ctrl+Shift+<hotkey></code>

Macros

A macro is a named sequence of palette steps that you can trigger by name, hotkey, or favorite. Unlike inline `;` sequences, macros are saved and reusable.

Creating a macro

1. Open **Settings → Macros → New macro**.
2. Give it a name.
3. Add steps. Each step is either a device load or a command.
4. Save.

Ableton needs to be open while you build a macro so Volta can show your installed devices and plug-ins in the step picker.

Running a macro

- **By name.** Type the macro name in the palette and press `Enter`.
- **By hotkey.** After saving your macro, assign a hotkey in **Settings → Favorites**, then press `Ctrl+Shift+<hotkey>` while Ableton is focused.

Part 4. Settings, licensing, and help

Settings

Open Settings from the Volta menu-bar icon. The window has six tabs.

General

Setting	Description
Launch at login	Start Volta automatically when you log in.
Activation hotkey	Change the default <code>Cmd+Shift+K</code> / <code>Ctrl+Shift+K</code> .
Crash reporting	Anonymous crash reports help Volta diagnose problems. Defaults to on for fresh installs. No identifiers or license keys are sent. Toggle off at any time.
Connection status	Shows whether Volta is currently linked to Ableton, with a Reconnect button.

Favorites

The list of saved favorites. Drag to reorder, click a row to edit or assign a hotkey, click the delete icon to remove.

Defaults

Default values Volta uses when you run a command without typing a number.

Setting	Used by
Default clip bars	Bare <code>clip</code>
Default duplicate count	Bare <code>dup</code> and <code>dup track</code>
Default new-track count	Bare <code>new midi track</code> / <code>new audio track</code>
BPM presets	The picker that opens when you type bare <code>tempo</code> or <code>bpm</code>

Macros

Create, edit, hotkey-bind, and delete saved macros.

Sample search

Setting	Description
Sample search	Master toggle. When off, the palette stops showing the Samples section and indexing pauses.
Folders Volta searches	Read-only list. Synced from Ableton's Places sidebar.
Refresh library	Pick up new and changed folders.
Rebuild from scratch	Clear the index and scan everything again.

About

Where you check for updates and manage your license.

Trial and licensing

Volta has a 7-day free trial. After that, you'll need a license to keep using it.

Activating a license

Buy a license, then open **Settings → About → Manage license** and paste the key.

One license activates one machine at a time. To move Volta to another machine:

1. Open **Settings → About → Manage license** on the current machine and press **Deactivate**.
 2. Install Volta on the new machine and activate with the same key.
-

Updates

Volta checks for updates on launch and on demand.

- **Automatic.** On launch, Volta checks for a new version and shows a small banner in the menu-bar dropdown if one is available.
 - **Manual.** Open **Settings → About → Check for Updates**.
-

Troubleshooting

"Not connected"

Ableton isn't running, no project is open, or VoltaOSC isn't active.

1. Make sure Ableton is open with a project loaded.
2. Click **Reconnect** in the palette or in Settings → General.
3. Open Ableton's **Preferences → Tempo & MIDI** (Live 12.4 and later; on older versions this is **Link / Tempo / MIDI**). VoltaOSC should appear as an active Control Surface.

VoltaOSC isn't in Ableton's Control Surface list

Open **Settings → About → VoltaOSC installer** and press **Reinstall**, then fully restart Ableton.

Device list is stale after installing a plug-in

Restart Ableton, or toggle VoltaOSC off and on under Preferences. Volta re-scans on reconnect.

A command doesn't work

- Track commands need a track selected in Ableton.
- `dup` needs a focused MIDI clip on the selected track. `clip` doesn't. It creates a new one.
- MIDI-only commands (`clip` , `dup` , `transpose`) only appear when a MIDI track is selected.

Samples section is empty after typing a query

- Confirm **Settings → Sample search → Sample search** is on.
- On a large library, the first scan can take several minutes. Open Settings → Sample search to see the current indexed count.
- Confirm your folders appear under Ableton's Places sidebar. Drag any missing folder in. Volta picks Places up automatically.

Sample preview keeps playing after I close the palette

Preview should stop on close. If it doesn't, reopen the palette and press `Ctrl+Space` on any sample row to take playback over, then move the highlight off it. If it persists, report it to support@jendolabs.com. There are Live-version edge cases we're still tracking.

The palette hotkey doesn't open the palette

- Volta only opens the palette when **Ableton is the frontmost window**. Click into Ableton first.
- If Ableton is focused and nothing happens, check **Settings → General → Activation hotkey** for conflicts with another app or system shortcut.

A favorite or macro hotkey doesn't fire

Hotkeys are scoped to Ableton. Switch to Ableton and try again. If Ableton is focused and the hotkey still doesn't fire, open Settings → Favorites (or Macros), confirm the hotkey is bound, and re-record it if needed.